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STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR THE YEAR  
1948

ROGER & RENNICK.  
PRINTERS, WIGAN.



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# STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

### *SANITARY INSPECTOR AND PUBLIC CLEANSING OFFICER :*

B. L. PARKER, A.R.San. I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.



## *Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council*

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July, 1949

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report for the year 1948.

As in previous years the report has been compiled in the manner indicated by the Ministry of Health Circular.

An outstanding event of the year was the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act on the 5th July, 1949. The Lancashire County Council is the Local Health Authority. For administrative purposes the County has been divided into Divisional Health Areas each under a Divisional Health Committee. These Committees came into operation on the 5th July, 1949.

Certain duties, which hitherto had been the responsibility of the District Council, namely, provision of Ambulances, Domiciliary Nursing, Immunisation and matters relating to the control and notification of Infectious Diseases, passed to the Local Health Authority to be dealt with by the Divisional Health Committee of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. H. Wilkinson, whom I wish to thank for his services in the past, resigned his appointment with this Authority and left the district in February, 1948, to take up an appointment elsewhere. Mr. B. L. Parker was his successor and commenced duties on the 1st April, 1948. I would like to extend my thanks to Mr. Parker and other members of the Staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen.

Your obedient Servant,

DOROTHY M. JAMES,

M.D., D.P.H.

# GENERAL STATISTICS

Population mid-1948 .....	8,932
Acreage of District .....	3,266
Number of Inhabited Houses .....	2,650
Rateable Value .....	£43,820
Product of a Penny Rate .....	£174/1/7

## VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.	M.	F.	Totals
Live Births — Legitimate .....	56	67	123
Illegitimate .....	3	1	4
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			14.2
Live Birth Rate of England and Wales			17.9
Still Births — Legitimate .....	1	1	2
— Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births is 15.			
Number of Still Births was 2 compared with 8 in 1947.			
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 was 14.2 compared with 22.8 in 1947.			
Total number of Live Births in 1948 was 127 compared with 198 in 1947.			
Live Birth Rate: Mean of 5 years 1943-47 was ...	...	18.9	
Year 1947 ...	...	22.8	
Year 1948 ...	...	14.2	
Decrease in 1948 on 5 years average ...	...	4.7	
Decrease in 1948 on the previous year ...	...	8.6	

### DEATHS.

There were 92 deaths, 50 Males and 42 Females, compared with 116, 63 Males and 53 Females in 1947.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population was	10.3
Death Rate for England and Wales ... ..	10.8
Mean of 5 years 1943-1947 ... ..	12.0
Year 1947 ... ..	13.3
Year 1948 ... ..	10.3
Decrease in 1948 on 5 years average ...	1.7
Decrease in 1948 on previous year ...	3.0

There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes in 1948, therefore the Maternal Mortality for 1948 was Nil.

**CANCER.**—Eight deaths occurred in 1948 (4 Males, 4 Females), compared with 12 (3 Males, 9 Females) in 1947.

Death Rate from Cancer per 1,000 of estimated population was	0.89
Mean of 5 years 1943-47 ... ..	1.24
Year 1947 ... ..	1.38
Decrease on 5 years average ... ..	0.35
Decrease in 1948 on 1947 ... ..	0.49

**INFANTILE DEATHS.**—Five deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred in 1948 (1 Male, 4 Females), compared with 9 in 1947 (5 Males, 4 Females). All were legitimate.

# Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age:—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	39
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	40
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births,	Nil.			
The Rate for England and Wales of All Infants per 1,000 Live Births was 34.				
The mean of 5 years 1943-1947	...	...	...	37
Year 1947	...	...	...	45
Year 1948	...	...	...	39
Increase in 1948 on 5 years average	...	...	...	2
Decrease in 1948 on 1947	...	...	...	6

Four Deaths in this group were due to prematurity and one stated to be debility from birth. This baby lived two days.

The premature babies all died within 4 hours of birth. Three of the babies (2 premature) and one congenital cause were born in Hospital. One premature baby was born in a Nursing Home and one at home.

## DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES:—

	M.		F.
Measles (all ages)	—	...	—
Whooping Cough	—	...	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	...	—
Acute Polio Encephalitis	—	...	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	...	—
Pulmonary T.B.	I	...	I
Other Forms of T.B.	—	...	—
Influenza	—	...	I
Cancer, all sites	4	...	4
Diabetes	—	...	3
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	6	...	3
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	3	...	—
Heart Disease	I8	...	I2
Bronchitis	4	...	4
Pneumonia	I	...	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	I	...	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	...	—
Appendicitis	—	...	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	...	—
Nephritis	3	...	I
Premature Birth	I	...	3
Infantile Disease and Congenital Malformation	—	...	I
Suicide	2	...	I
Road Traffic Accident	—	...	—
Other Violent Causes	I	...	I
All Other Causes	5	...	4
	—		—
All Causes	50	...	42



## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens are sent to the Bacteriological Department of the Wigan Infirmary for examination.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Until July 5th, 1948, arrangements were made with the Fever Hospitals for the removal of patients to hospital by their ambulances, and for non-infectious and accident cases Wigan County Borough Ambulances were obtained.

After July 5th, 1948, the duty of providing an Ambulance Service devolved upon the Local Health Authority, i.e., the Lancashire County Council. In some instances arrangements were made with Local Health Authorities for the use of their ambulances, and in the case of Standish the service is provided by the Wigan County Borough Council. The Ambulance Depot is Wigan Fire Station.

### HOSPITALS

Until July 5th, 1948, arrangements were made with the Wigan County Borough for the reception of cases of infectious diseases at Whelley Isolation Hospital at a cost varying from 9/- to 13/- per day according to the disease, plus an ambulance charge of 15/-.

Arrangements with Blackburn Smallpox Hospital to take cases of Smallpox, costs a retaining fee of £20 per annum.

Arrangements exist with the Leigh Joint Hospital Board to accept cases of Typhus.

On July 5th, 1948, the National Health Service Act came into operation. The duty of providing free hospital accommodation for infectious cases ceased to be the responsibility of the Local Authority.

There are no Nursing Homes in the District.



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

An Infant Welfare Clinic is provided by the County Council at "Ashfield House," Standish, and is open every Wednesday afternoon. The Medical Officer of Health, in her capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, attended these Clinics, and was assisted by the County Council Health Visitor. Advice on feeding and general Health of infants and toddlers is given. The Clinic was very well attended during the year; 352 individual children attended, and there was a total of 2,014 attendances. A member of the Food Office Staff also attends at the Clinic for the purpose of distributing Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices under the Government Scheme.

The Ante-Natal Clinic, which was held at "Ashfield House" on Mondays at 1-30 p.m. was very well attended. The Clinic serves the Wigan Rural District as well as Standish. Sessions were held during the year; 201 individual expectant mothers attended the Clinic, and the total number of attendances was 835.

## RESIDENTIAL NURSERY

The Residential Nursery has continued during the year. The Nursery has accommodation for 50 children, 20 of whom are resident.

## SCHOOLS.

A School Clinic is provided by the County Council at "Ashfield House," Standish, for the treatment of Minor Ailments. I am pleased to report that the Clinic has been very well attended. Unfortunately, as yet, the Dental Clinic has not commenced, but arrangements for its establishment are in hand. An Ophthalmic Surgeon attends the Clinic once a fortnight, and the attendance has been very satisfactory. The Clinic is open for these purposes as follows:—

Monday: 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon — Medical Officer and Nurse attends.

Wednesday: 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon Alternate Wednesdays—  
Ophthalmic Clinic.

Thursday: 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon — Minor Ailments (Nurse  
only).

The Routine Medical Inspections of the children in the schools are carried out by the Medical Officer in her capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer. Close co-operation exists between the Medical Officer of Health, the School Teachers, and the School Attendance Officer; the latter supplies a weekly return of the school-children who are absent from school through illness.

The County Council Health Visitor follows up the cases for whom the Medical Officer recommends treatment at the time of the School Inspection. The Nurse also visits the schools regularly for the purpose of Cleanliness Inspections, and also visits the parents to give advice to the cases in which the standard is unsatisfactory.

Meals are provided at all Schools in the district.

All the schools in the district are fairly old, but their general sanitary condition is satisfactory on the whole. All have ample main water supply.

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## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

One hundred and ninety-four cases of Infectious Disease were notified to the Department under the Infectious Disease Notification Act, compared with 147 in 1947.

# DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1948

Notifiable Disease.	Total Cases.	YEARS										Deaths	Admitted to Hospital		
		Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35			45	65
Scarlet Fever ...	76	—	—	3	3	3	39	21	2	2	3	—	—	—	19
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	103	—	9	14	13	21	44	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	—	1	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1
Chicken Pox .....	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals:..... 194 — 10 17 17 17 25 90 21 2 4 3 3 2 4 21															

There were 103 cases of Measles notified, the majority of these occurred in the 5-10 year age group and during the last 3 months of the year. There were 76 cases of Scarlet Fever notified and these were scattered over the whole 12 months. The majority of these occurred in school-children. I think the spread of Scarlet Fever was primarily kept up by the return to school of children who had had the disease and were still carriers. The majority of cases were nursed at home and in most cases no swabs were taken before the children returned to School.

In December an attempt was made to swab all children who had been suffering from Scarlet Fever before returning to School.

There were no cases of Food Poisoning notified during the year 1948.

#### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The immunisation of the children against Diphtheria was continued during the year 1948. The campaign is still being pressed with vigour. School children are treated at the schools, with the co-operation of the Head Teachers, whilst the pre-school children are treated at the Clinic. The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by the School Nurse. The immunising agent used is Alum Precipitated toxoid in doses of 0.2C.C., followed by 0.5C.C., a month later.

On July 5th, 1948, all the records and figures were handed over to the Divisional Health Committee as the Local Health Authority became responsible for Immunisation and Vaccination.

Sessions for Immunisation were held on the last Friday in the month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

#### TUBERCULOSIS

The Notifications received during the year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations 1930, were as follows:—



# NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948

		New Cases				Deaths			
Age Periods		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
1	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
5	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
10	...	—	—	1	—	...	—	—	—
15	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
20	...	1	—	—	1	...	—	—	—
25	...	—	2	—	—	...	—	1	—
35	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
45	...	—	—	—	—	...	1	—	—
55	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
65 and upwards		—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
Totals		1	2	1	1	...	1	1	—

All cases were notified before death.

Death Rate for T.B. of the Respiratory System was 0.22

Mean of 5 years 1943-47 ..... 0.21

Year 1947 ..... 0.11

Year 1948 ..... 0.22

Increase on 5 years' average ..... 0.01

Increase in 1948 on 1947 ..... 0.11

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY

The Council have their own plant for filtration and chlorination of water supplies, Bell's Mechanical Filters beng used. The water for domestic and trade supply is purchased from Liverpool Corporation, and comes from the reservoir at Anglezarke, near Chorley, and a special industrial supply is purchased from Manchester Corporation and is supplied from Thirlmere. Before distribution in the district the domestic supply is treated:—

Alumina—1 gr. per gall.; soda ash—1 gr. per gall.; is then filtered and finally chlorinated.

The special industrial supply is distributed untreated, and both supplies are constant.

The water is of good soft Upland Surface Water in every way well suited for drinking and all domestic purposes.

Two samples of the treated water were taken during the year. The following table shows results of analysis:—

ANALYSIS OF WATER.

BACTERIOLOGICAL	April	July
Presumptive Coliform Count		
Total No. of B Coli per 100 ml .....	Nil	Nil
Total No. of Colonies developing on Agar after 48 hrs. at 37 C per 1.0 ml. sample .....	Less than 30	Nil
Total No. of Colonies developing on Agar after 72 hrs. at 20 C per 1.0 ml. sample .....	Less than 30	Nil
CHEMICAL (RESULTS PARTS/100,000)		
Total solid matter in solution .....	10.76	8.16
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 mins. (3 hrs.) ...	.045 .081	.021 .043
Ammonia .....	.001	.001
Ammonia from organic matter .....	.004	.003
Nitrogen as Nitrates .....	Traces	Traces
Nitrogen as Nitrites .....	Nil	Nil
Combined Chlorine .....	1.25	1.30
Total Hardness .....	4.1	3.7
Reaction to Litmus .....	Alkaline	Faintly Alkaline
P.H. Value .....	9.6	7.9

Both samples were faintly yellow and odourless, the April sample being clear, with only minute traces of suspended matter consisting of vegetable debris, infusoria, verticella, hydrated oxide of iron and particles of siliceous matter, whilst the July sample was very faintly turbid, and contained a considerable amount of suspended matter consisting mainly of hydrated oxides of iron and aluminium.

All houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to houses, with the exception of two cottages, which are dependent on springs.

## REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. B. L. Parker, Sanitary Inspector and Public Cleansing Officer, has kindly contributed the following report:—

### DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Butchers' Shops .....	10	P.H.A. Workplaces .....	2
Bakehouses .....	5	Shops under Shops Acts .....	68
Dairies .....	37	Public Halls and Cinemas.....	1
Cowsheds .....	39	School Sanitary Accommodation	5
Ice-Cream Vendors .....	27	Pigs'lies .....	7
Cafes and Canteens .....	2	Housing Acts .....	113
Fish and Chip Shops .....	7	Verminous Premises .....	2
Other Food Premises .....	21	Refuse Disposal Tips .....	43
Public Houses .....	25	Septic Tanks and Cesspools ...	36
Hawkers .....	7	Watercourses .....	3
Infectious Disease Inquiries .....	59	Re. Dustbins .....	52
Investigation of Complaints .....	177	Water Supplies .....	2
Re-inspections of Notices .....	122	Re. Housing Applications .....	68
Appointments with Owners, etc.	61	Salvage Campaign .....	115
Number of Drains Tested .....	10	Various Causes .....	92
Drainage Inspections .....	109		
Rodent Control .....	307		
Factories (Mech.) .....	17		
Factories (Non-Mech.) .....	3	Total Number of Inspections :	1,654

The number of drainage inspections was excessive, having regard to the fact that the majority were in respect of defective or obstructed drainage systems. It has been observed that in the past, drains were laid with too little supervision over their design and construction and the majority of the drains of the older type building in this district are badly laid and designed with no means of access for inspection. The common practice in this district of repeatedly "plunging" an obstructed drain to temporarily clear it is to be deplored, as the only effectual and lasting remedy is to expose the drain and have a look what is taking place underground and thereafter apply the appropriate remedy.

The illegal practice of exposing and repairing drains without informing the Authorised Officers of the Local Authority will have to be met by strong action from the Council. It must always be remembered that the speedy removal of waste matter by an efficient drainage system is one of the first essentials of Public Health.

The practice of some members of the public depositing rubbish on undeveloped spaces and alongside roadways is to be deprecated. Whilst such rubbish may not amount to a nuisance within the terms of the Statute it offends the eye and disfigures the district, and such lack of civic pride should be dealt with by every means possible.

**Defects or Nuisances** —No. Discovered: 433. No. Abated: 347.

**Number of Notices Served** — Informal: 114. Statutory: 5.

**Legal Proceedings:** Nil.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Except for the following, all premises are supplied with water closets:—

Privy middens .....	13 (mostly on farms)
Pail Closets .....	67
Waste water closets .....	2

During the year 1 pail and 3 privy closets were converted to the water carriage system.

A special report was prepared concerning the 21 pail closets attached to the 21 houses at Gidlow and at the end of the year negotiations for the sewerage of these houses were proceeding.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

- (i) By the Local Authority—

Permanent Prefabricated Houses .....	20
Traditional Permanent Houses .....	44
- (ii) By other Local Authorities .....
- (iii) By other Bodies or Persons ... 1 and 2 Flats

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....



	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	231
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... .. Nil	
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	4
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	106
2.		Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:— Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... ..	100
3.		Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
	(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	Nil
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a)	By owners ... ..	Nil
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
	(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	1
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	

	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	1
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil				
	(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—					
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings not to use accepted	...	...			3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...		Nil
	(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—					
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil
4.	Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:—					
	(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	7
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...				12
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...				46
	(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	13
	(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	12
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases					64

**HOUSING:** Reference to the foregoing statistics on housing will to some extent reveal what progress was made in this important sphere of public health work.

As requested by the Council, as much time as possible was devoted to the repair of dwelling-houses during the year and some

progress can be reported. Three houses were deemed unfit for human habitation and undertakings not to use for this purpose were given by the owners and the occupants rehoused by the Council. Repairs of a major and minor character were carried out to dwelling-houses in many other instances.

Fifty-five investigations were made into the cases of applicants for housing accommodation and reports prepared for the guidance of the Housing Committee. In selecting tenants for Council housing accommodation this Committee spared no time or effort to allocate the houses to those of greatest need and in the most impartial way possible.

### DISINFESTATION

The following premises were disinfested during the year:—

Bed Bugs and Fleas: 5 whole houses.

Cockroaches: 3 whole houses.

Spraying and dusting with D.D.T. solution and powder was found to be highly effective.

### DISINFECTION

Thirty-one dwelling-houses and one school were disinfected after infectious disease, using formaldehyde for the purpose.

### RODENT CONTROL

One part-time operator is employed on rodent control work. In addition to search work the following premises were treated for infestations:—

Business premises: 14.

Private houses: 34.

L.A. Properties: 4.

The sewers and sewage works were also systematically treated as were the refuse disposal sites. Rodent control work is carried out in strict conformity with the methods advised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

## KEEPING OF ANIMALS

Sixty-six pigsties were in use during the year mostly in connection with the Self Suppliers of Pigs Scheme — Domestic Pig Keepers. All are of a reasonable standard of construction and no action by this department was necessary.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The need for new and adequate public conveniences planned on modern lines for both sexes still exists. The holiday season with its almost continuous stream of traffic through the district more than emphasises the urgency of this need. The Council have, however, definite plans in being for new public conveniences.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Continuous pollution takes place from both public and private sewage disposal plant. Efforts have been made to reduce the pollution from private premises. The pollution from the public sewage disposal plant can only be mitigated by the provision of new and extended works now envisaged.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Standish has a water carriage system to which most houses in the district are connected.

The Local Authority maintains two sewage disposal works— at Arbour Lane and Chorley Road — and two sewage farms — at Fairhurst House and Langtree. Three of these are grossly overloaded and cannot deal efficiently with the increased influx of recent years. Extensive repairs to the works are also required.

A scheme for the improvement of the sewerage and sewage disposal systems was in an advanced state of preparation at the outbreak of war. Further consideration is now being given to this although progress is delayed by uncertainty as to the areas of future development due to the district being seriously affected throughout by active mining subsidence.



## CAMPING SITES

There are no camping sites in the area.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

General observations were made during the year. Pollution of the atmosphere from manufactory and domestic chimneys takes place.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public in the district.

## SHOPS ACTS.

There are 140 shops of various kinds within the Urban District. In 33 shops assistants are employed including 14 shops employing young persons.

During the year 68 shops inspections were made. In the case of one particular shop a special report was made to the Council regarding certain contraventions of the Shops Acts.

The Sanitary Inspector is delegated Inspector of Shops by the Lancashire County Council as regards certain provisions enforceable by that Authority.

## FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Number of Factories on Register at 31st December, 1948:—

Factories (Mech.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Factories (Non-Mech.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Number of cases in which defects were found	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of cases in which defects were remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of written notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

There are no out-workers within the Urban District. Also there are 22 workplaces coming within the provisions of Section 46 P.H.A. 1936.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year, 134 inspections of food premises of all kinds were made and every opportunity of advising food handlers on matters of hygiene was seized. Good hygiene in the food trade is good business and no amount of shop window dressing can conceal dirty and careless habits behind the counter or in places to which customers have no access.

All slaughtering of animals for human food continues to be carried out under Government Control at Wigan and meat distribution takes place from there.

Forty-five pig carcasses and organs were inspected under the Self Suppliers of Pigs Scheme — Domestic Pig Keepers — and localised tuberculosis in two cases was the only disease discovered. The parts affected were condemned as unfit for human food and destroyed.

A series of three samples of ice-cream was taken from the only manufacturer in the district and subjected to the Methylene Blue test. All samples showed satisfactory gradings.

The following foods were inspected and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

				Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Tomato pulp	...	...	...	115	5	0	9	15
Dehydrated granulated mutton	...	...	...	—	1	2	0	0
Pigs heads and organs (Sets 2)	...	...	...	—	—	3	1	0
Canned Meats	...	...	...	—	—	—	3	12
Biscuits	...	...	...	—	—	—	4	8

Total weight: 115 tons 7 cwts. 1 Qtr. 19 lbs. 3 ozs.

## FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied the following details:—

A total of 39 samples was obtained made up of 21 samples of milk and 18 samples of other commodities.

With the exception of two samples (milk and golden raising powder) all proved genuine. Appropriate action was taken in respect of the two deficient samples.

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Licences to slaughter animals have been issued to six slaughter-men under the above Act.

### MILK AND DAIRIES.

Milk Producers on register ...	...	...	...	...	...	21
including Accredited Producers ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Milk Purveyors on register ...	...	...	...	...	...	39
including Local Producer-Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	13
,, Local Wholesale-Producers	...	...	...	...	...	8
,, Purveyors from Shops	...	...	...	...	...	9
,, Retailers from outside district	...	...	...	...	...	9
Milk (Special Designations) Regulations—						
Supplementary Licences issued — Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Licences issued—Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dealer’s Licences issued — Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1
Approximate number of cows kept in district	...	...	...	...	...	305

Seventy-six inspections of cowsheds and dairies were carried out during the year and every opportunity was taken of carrying out advisory work in connection with clean milk production.

#### Biological Milk Sampling:—

During the year 37 milk samples were taken for examination for B. Tuberculosis. Six samples were found to contain the tubercle bacillus and 6 cows were removed from affected herds and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The refuse collection staff consists of seven full-time employees including the foreman. Owing to the contingencies of the service it was necessary to employ an extra man part-time during certain periods of the year. As far as possible refuse was collected

at weekly intervals using the "S. and D." 12 cubic yd. rear-loading freighter and the "Scammell" 6 cubic yard side-loading vehicles. Pail closets were emptied weekly. Salvage was collected at the same time as the refuse, but kept separately for baling and subsequent despatch to the board mills.

The refuse was disposed of down the Broomfield and north Prospect disused pit shafts after being suitably adapted for the purpose by the provision of a shute and the adoption of safety measures. The consent and co-operation of the National Coal Board in releasing disused pit shafts for refuse disposal is greatly appreciated by the Council, as all possible dangers from these shafts located within the Urban District are removed when they are filled up and refuse disposal by this means has been free from objections on unhygienic grounds. Disposal of the refuse at Lower Ground was by surface tipping.

During the year some improvements to accommodation were carried out at the Grove Lane Depot and it is hoped that each year will mark progress in this direction.

The number of new dustbins provided in the district during the year was considerable. It is the practice to require the provision of the "standard" dustbin as the use of standardised refuse receptacles assists the service in no small degree.

The year was not without its difficulties due greatly to worn-out and dilapidated condition of the "S. and D." Vehicle which from time to time proved most unreliable. It is heartening to realise that delivery of the new "Dennis" 12 cubic yard side loading vehicle is expected early in the new year.

Every endeavour is applied to maintain the refuse collection service at the highest peak of efficiency, for upon this depends so much in the public health interests of so many.

There is no cessation in the output of refuse from places where life exists, and who can imagine the state of chaos which would rapidly develop in our midst if the refuse collection and disposal service were to cease.









